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**1209.** The value of purchase made through the Stores Purchase Committee in respect of stationery, printing and writing papers, etc., amounted to Rs. 11,16,271 (Rs. 11,85,449).

**1210.** The value of articles of Mysore manufacture purchased was Rs. 9,67,105 (Rs. 11,45,522).

**1211.** The total number of issues of stationery articles during the year including balances, advances and additional supplies made to the several Departments of Government and Quasi-Government Institutions was 2,976 (2,828).

**1212.** The expenditure on establishment and contingencies of the Government Stationery Depot during the year was Rs. 29,005 (Rs. 30,306).

**1213.** Sanction was accorded for the purchase of 80 typewriters required for the several Government Departments during the year at a cost of Rs. 75,000.

### (v) Horticulture and Public Gardens.

**1214.** Steady progress was made in many branches of the department during the year. The Mysore Horticultural Department continued its activities in connection with fruit culture, vegetable culture, floriculture; introduction, acclimatisation and propagation of economically important plants. On account of the intensive activities of the department since the last two years, there is a general horticultural awakening among the people. As a result of intensive work carried out in rural parts by the District Horticultural Inspectors of the department the area under fruit and vegetable crops has increased considerably and there is a definite increase in the output of fruits and vegetables. The ryotes and several institutions have availed of the services of the department in various matters. The dissemination of horticultural knowledge, improved and scientific cultural methods and other operations such as planting, pruning, manuring, etc., control of pests and diseases is an important function of the department.

**1215.** At Lalbagh, Bangalore and at Curzon Park, Mysore, a Free Horticultural Training Centre is being conducted by the department every year for the benefit of

the public who are inclined to receive training in horticulture. At both these places, classes both in theory and practice are held on Sundays between 9 A.M. and 12 NOON and they are open to all those who are interested immaterial of their age, sex, profession, etc., tuition is imparted in all the aspects of horticulture. In conducting these classes, Officers belonging to various sister departments deliver lectures on nutritional value of fruits and vegetables and fruit and vegetable preservation respectively. This coaching has also given an impetus to the local people to take to home gardening in increasing numbers and that it is seen that home-gardens both flower and kitchen gardens have increased in both Cities. Yet another step taken up to popularise horticulture and to develop æsthetic taste among the younger folk is the implementation and to develop 'Earn While you Learn Scheme' as applied to horticulture.

**1216.** In this scheme, boys of middle and high schools are employed to work in Government Farms during their leisure hours with mutual benefit. The farms get the benefit of the services of the boys who in turn get small emoluments as an encouragement to their acquiring knowledge and practical experience in horticulture. This scheme is put into practice at present on experimental basis in Fruit Research Station, Hessarghatta and Horticultural Farm, Maddur.

Maintenance of Parks and Gardens.

**1217.** The Parks and Gardens which are under the control of the department were all maintained well and several improvements were also made.

Lalbagh, Bangalore.

**1218.** The botanic gardens of Lalbagh were very well maintained and many sections were newly formed. This garden is the nucleus of all horticultural activities in Mysore and it has been responsible for increasing the plant wealth of the State. The introduction of plants generally and economic plants in particular from both in and abroad, acclimatisation and propagation and distribution on an intensive scale is carried on here. It has been increasingly valuable as an adjunct or supplement to the natural and botanical study by the students of the local schools, colleges and as also by the horticulturists of the State. The Agricultural and other students and scholars whocome on tour invariably make it a point to visit these gardens to their immense benefit. As a botanical garden it has maintained

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its world reputation as one of the most outstanding in the East. It has been largely responsible for encouraging home gardens and make the City beautiful, and to achieve the reputation as the garden City of India.

**1219.** The farms at Maddur and Krishnarajasagara have been greatly improved.

Nurseries.

**1220.** The usual routine work of raising seedlings of flowering annuals, perennials, foliage plants, trees etc., were grown in large quantities for sale for display in various parts of garden and for the use of other departmental sections.

Koramangala Vegetable Farm.

**1221.** This farm is the chief centre of vegetable cultivation and meets a considerable portion of the local demand for fresh vegetables. During the year both European and Indian vegetables were grown and the quantity harvested was 24,152 lbs. and sold to the public at reasonable rates. The total amount realised by sales during the year was Rs. 37,853 as against the expenditure of Rs. 30,834.

The Mysore Horticultural Society.

**1222.** Under the auspices of the Mysore Horticultural Society, Lalbagh, three Shows were held in the Glass House, Lalbagh, during the year.

**1223.** The Fifth All-India Mango Show was held on the 22nd and 23rd May 1954. The Show received entries from many parts of India, most of them however, being from South India.

Garden Festival Week and Autumn Show.

**1224.** The Society celebrated Garden Festival Week during the 1st week of August 1954. In this connection, besides organising garden competitions in the City as usual, lectures on subjects of horticultural interest were arranged every day in the evenings at Lalbagh. Films of horticultural interest and high educative value were also screened every evening. The Garden Festival culminated and ended with Horticultural Show on 5th and 6th in the Glass House, Lalbagh.

**1225.** The Winter Show was held on the 5th and 6th February 1955.

Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens.

**1226.** The Zoo was open to the public throughout the year and 2,21,564 visitors visited the Zoo during the year exceeding the previous year's figures by over 50,000. In connection with Children's Day Celebrations, 1954 children of different local schools were admitted to the Zoo.

**1227.** The Hill Station continued to be a popular health and summer resort in the State. As a beauty spot it attracted large number of tourists. Several batches of students of schools and colleges also visited the Station for plant collection and botanical study. The visitors were provided with all the facilities and comforts. Hill Stations, Nandi Hill Station.

**1228.** The supervision in the maintenance of buildings was taken over by the department on 1st February 1955 from the management of Iron Works, Bhadravathi. Sri Krishnarajendra Hill Station, Kemmangundi.

## (vi) Stores Purchase Committee

**1229.** The total value of orders placed (including the approximate value of annual rate contracts) with firms in India during the year amounted to about Rs. 2,65,43,593 as against Rs. 2,28,63,263 in the previous year. The total value of orders placed with firms in Foreign Countries amounted to Rs. 54,96,336 as against Rs. 29,32,494 in the previous year. The total value of all purchases arranged by the Stores Purchase Committee both from firms in India and in Foreign countries during the year amounted to Rs. 3,20,39,929 as against Rs. 2,57,95,757 in the previous year. The fluctuation in prices of almost all materials continued as in the previous years. The number of ex-stock offers was small. The tendency towards enhancement of prices and delays in delivery continued and the prices quoted by Foreign Firms were not firm and were always subject to variation based on the cost of material and labour at the time of actual despatch. Most of the requirements of Government Departments were met by or through indigenous firms.

**1230.** The staff of the Department of Industries and Commerce, Mysore, inspected the articles of local manufacturers such as furniture, leather articles and iron safes, etc., required by the Government Departments.

**1231.** The expenditure on the establishment, salaries, advertisement and contingencies, etc., amounted to Rs. 69,412. The incidence of cost on the basis of the total value of all purchases arranged by the Stores Purchase Committee during the year worked out to 0·21 per cent as against 0·18 per cent during the previous year. The total expenditure including the contribution of